

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 996 234 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
26.04.2000 Bulletin 2000/17

(51) Int. Cl.⁷: H04B 1/707, H04J 13/04

(21) Application number: 98120115.5

(22) Date of filing: 23.10.1998

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventors:
• Jürgensen, Jens-Uwe
Stuttgarter Strasse 106, 70736 Fellbach (DE)
• Stirling-Gallacher, Richard
Stuttgarter Strasse 106, 70736 Fellbach (DE)

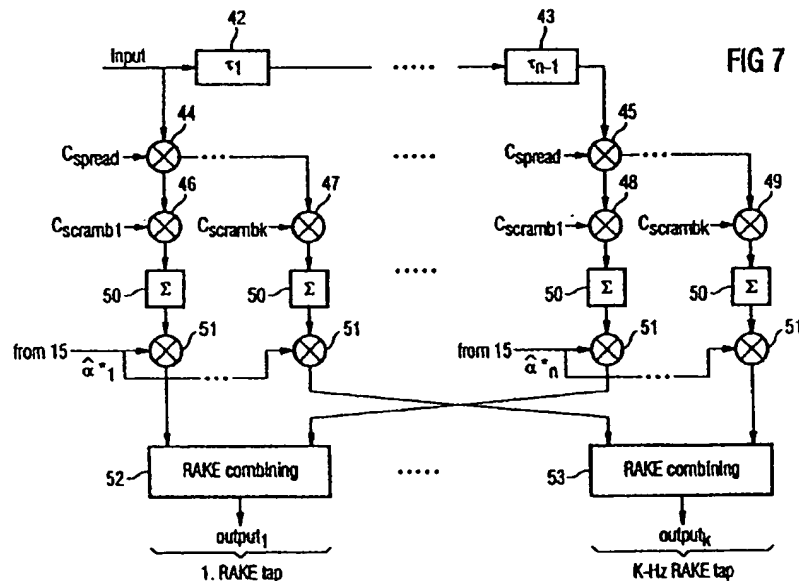
(71) Applicant:
Sony International (Europe) GmbH
50829 Köln (DE)

(74) Representative:
Rupp, Christian, Dipl.Phys. et al
Mitscherlich & Partner
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Sonnenstrasse 33
80331 München (DE)

(54) Receiver architecture for a multi scrambling code transmission CDMA technique

(57) To provide a higher data rate service on one link, it is possible to use more than one scrambling code per link. In this way, the same channelisation code can be reused and a higher data rate can be supported because the highest data rate is restricted by the set of channelisation codes with the shortest length. When reusing one and the same channelisation code for spreading the two different data streams transmitted in

one link and scrambling these two data streams by two different scrambling codes, the complexity of the receiver will be reduced. Therefore, the two data streams are spread with one and the same channelisation code. After this, each of these data streams is scrambled with a different scrambling code.



EP 0 996 234 A1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a receiver and a receiving method for detecting information symbols transmitted according to a CDMA technique, wherein the information symbols have been respectively spread with an identical spreading code and scrambled with different scrambling codes.

[0002] CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) transmitting systems are known from the state of the art. According to one CDMA technique, after the modulation (symbol mapping), the symbols are spread by a so-called spreading sequence or spreading code. After spreading the resulting data stream is scrambled by a scrambling sequence or a scrambling code. The thus resulting data stream, which has been spread and scrambled, is then power-amplified and sent over a communication channel. The reverse procedure is effected at the receiving side.

[0003] In Figure 3 an example for a transmission system comprising scrambling and spreading is shown. In the example of Figure 3 only the downlink communication channel 26 from a base station 24 to a mobile station 25 is shown. The downlink 26 can comprise different channels D_1, \dots, D_N . Each channel comprises channelisation (spreading) 28, 30 and scrambling 29, 31. According to the state of the art in one link, as for example the downlink 26 as shown in Figure 3, only one scrambling sequence (scrambling code) and several different spreading codes (often referred to as channelisation codes) are used depending upon the data rate and services required. The drawback of this approach is that only certain types of channelisation codes can be used together and the highest data rate is constrained by the length of the shortest channelisation code. This is especially true when codes of different rates are used.

[0004] From WO96/05668 A1 and EP-A-565 506 techniques for multiple access coding for radio communication is known. According to these documents information symbols are spread using orthogonal or bi-orthogonal code words. This spread information symbols are assigned a unique scramble mask that is taken from a set of scramble masks having selected correlation properties. The set of scramble masks is selected such that the correlation between the modulo-2 sum of two scramble masks with any codeword is a constant magnitude independent of the codeword and the individual mask being compared. According to one embodiment of WO 96/05668 A1, when any two masks are summed using modulo-2 sum arithmetic, the Walsh transformation of that sum results in a maximally flat Walsh spectrum. For cellular radio telephone systems using subtractive CDMA demodulation techniques, a two-tier ciphering system ensures security at the cellular system level by using a pseudorandomly generated code key to select one of the scramble masks common to all of the mobile stations in a particular cell. As according to these techniques one common scramble

mask is used for all mobile stations in a particular cell, the above-cited drawback arises that only certain types of channelisation codes can be used together limiting the number of available channelisation (spreading) codes.

[0005] The generation of spreading codes by a code tree is known from Adachi, "Tree-structured generation of orthogonal spreading codes with different lengths for forward link of DS-CDMA mobile radio", Electronics Letters, January 1997, Vol.33, No.1, page 27, 28.

[0006] A RAKE receiver is for example shown and explained in US-A-5677930. Therefore regarding the principles of the RAKE receiving technology and the meaning of the specific expressions such as "RAKE tap" etc. reference is made to said document.

[0007] Fig. 8 shows a receiving technique known from the prior art. It is assumed that one scrambling code and a plurality of spreading codes is used to transmit data according to a CDMA technique. Therefore received data is passed to a plurality of RAKE receivers 40, 41. The provision of a plurality of RAKE receiver, however, represent a disadvantage regarding the complexity and thus the producing costs of the entire receiver structure.

[0008] All known receiver techniques can only cope with transmission systems utilizing only one scrambling code within one link (uplink or downlink). The present invention, however, deals with CDMA transmission systems utilizing two or more scrambling codes within one link for which up to now no receiver structure has been proposed in the state of the art.

[0009] Therefore it is the object of the present invention to provide for a receiving technique adapted to cope with CDMA transmission systems utilizing one spreading codes and two or more scrambling codes within one link (uplink or downlink).

[0010] The object as set forth above is achieved by means of the features of the independent claims. The dependent claims develop further the central idea of the present invention in a particularly advantageous manner.

[0011] Therefore, according to the present invention, a receiver for detecting information symbols transmitted according to a CDMA technique is provided, wherein the receiver is adapted to cope with received information symbols which have been spread with identical spreading codes and scrambled with different scrambling codes. The receiver thereby comprises a modified RAKE receiver.

[0012] According to the present invention furthermore a mobile telecommunications device is provided comprising a receiver as set forth above wherein the mobile telecommunications device can be a portable mobile station.

[0013] According to the present invention furthermore a method for receiving and detecting information symbols transmitted according to a CDMA technique is

provided. A method is adapted to cope with the information symbols which have been respectively spread with an identical spreading code and scrambled with different scrambling codes. According to the method of the present invention a plurality of descrambling steps is provided for descrambling an input data bit stream respectively with different descrambling codes. In a modified RAKE receiving step the output of the despreading step is passed to a number of parallel streams which are then multiplied by the different number of parallel streams which are then multiplied by the different descrambling codes before multiplication by the estimated channel coefficients. The number of RAKE receiver outputs therefore corresponds to the number of scrambling codes used.

[0014] Further aspects, advantages and features of the present invention will now be explained by means of embodiments of the present invention and with reference to the enclosed figures of the drawings.

Figure 1 shows a general view of a wireless transmission system,

Figure 2 shows the spreading and scrambling respectively for a downlink communication channel and a uplink communication channel between a base station and a mobile station of the wireless transmission system as shown in Figure 1,

Figure 3 shows the channelisation (spreading) and scrambling in a downlink communication channel between a base station and a mobile station according to the prior art,

Figure 4 shows the plurality of cells in the transmission system,

Figure 5 shows an application of the present invention to provide for higher data rate services,

Figure 6 shows a receiver according to the present invention designed for a multi scrambling code CDMA technique,

Figure 7 shows the internal structure of a RAKE receiver modified according to the present invention, and

Figure 8 shows a known receiver for a CDMA technique utilizing a plurality of spreading codes and only one scrambling code per link.

[0015] A transmission system according to the present invention will now be explained generally with reference to Figure 1. As shown in Figure 1, different data can be transmitted in a wireless manner. The data to be transmitted can comprise voice data from a telephone 1, 23, digital video data, for example, from a

video camera 5 to be transmitted to a monitor 20 and other digital information data, as for example, data from a computer 6 to be transmitted to another computer 19. The analog voice data from a telephone 1 are A/D-converted 2, voice coded 3 and then supplied to a channel encoder 4. The data, for example, from a video camera 5 or from the computer 6 are also supplied to the channel encoder 4. The different data, for example, the voice data and the video data can be transmitted simultaneously. The data from the channel encoder 4 are given to a interleaver 7 and then supplied to a modulator 8 providing for a symbol mapping. The modulated data from modulator 8 are then spread 9 and scrambled 10, which will be explained later on in detail. The spread and scrambled data are amplified 11, and then transmitted over a wireless transmission path 12.

[0016] On the receiving side, the received data bit stream is downconverted in a baseband downconverter 13. The downconverted data output from the baseband downconverter 13 are digitized in an A/D converter 14 and input to correlator 16'. The correlator 16' can be a cyclic correlator or a tapped delay line. The incoming received chip stream is correlated by the correlator 16' by all of the different cyclic shifts. By means of the correlation the correlator 16' detects correlation peaks representing delays corresponding to estimated path delays τ_1, τ_2, \dots of a multipath propagation channel. The amplitudes of the detected correlation peaks represent the amplitudes and phases of the estimated paths. The output signals of the correlator 16' are both supplied to a channel estimator 15 and a descrambling/despreading unit comprising a RAKE receiver 16. The descrambling/despreading unit 16 comprising a RAKE receiver is supplied with estimated tap coefficients (channel estimates) from the channel estimator 15. The output of the RAKE receiver in the descrambling/despreading unit 16 is passed through a deinterleaver 17, a channel decoder 18, a voice decoder 21 and is then D/A converted in a D/A converter 22. Finally the analog data is output on a terminal such as a telephone 23. Obviously digital data can be supplied directly from the channel decoder 18 for example to a video monitor 20 or a computer terminal 19.

[0017] With reference to Figure 2, particularly the scrambling procedure will now be explained in detail.

[0018] In Figure 2 the communication between a base station 24 and a mobile station 25 is shown. Particularly the downlink channel 26 from the base station 24 to the mobile station 25 and the uplink channel 27 between the mobile station 25 and the base station 24 are shown. The downlink channel 26 and the uplink channel 27 comprise different subchannels $D_1 \dots D_N, D_1 \dots D_N$. A first subset of the subchannels of the downlink channel 26 can for example be used for voice data and other subchannels can be used for the simultaneous transmission of video data. The data from the base station 24 are channelised (spread) with different spreading codes $C_{\text{channel } 1} \dots C_{\text{channel } N}$, which are

mutually orthogonal or bi-orthogonal 28, 30. The spread data are then scrambled 29, 31 with scrambling codes $C_{\text{scramble } 1}, \dots, C_{\text{scramble } M}$. Therefore scrambling codes which are different, but need not to be mutually orthogonal or bi-orthogonal, are used within the same link, for example, the downlink 26. (The orthogonality requirements are satisfied by the spreading codes.)

[0019] For the uplink 27, either the same scrambling codes $C_{\text{scramble } 1}, \dots, C_{\text{scramble } M}$ as in the case of the downlink 26, or another group of scrambling codes $C_{\text{scramble } 1'}, \dots, C_{\text{scramble } M'}$ or, as generally the uplink channel 27 demands for the same high bit rate as the downlink channel 26, even just one scrambling code can be used.

[0020] As it has already been set forth above, the downlink channel 26 or the uplink channel 27 can comprise subchannels for video and/or voice transmission. Different scrambling codes can be allocated for the scrambling of the channels demanding for a high bit rate, as it is the case, for example, for the transmission of video data. For transmission of, for example, voice data, only one scrambling code can be used.

[0021] Regarding the details of the spreading and scrambling process, particularly the modulo-2 sum operation for the scrambling at the transmission side and the multiplying operation for the descrambling at the reception side, the above-cited documents WO 96/05668 A1 and EP-A-565 506 are incorporated by reference. Particularly Figures 1 and 2 in the corresponding description (page 14 to page 19) of WO 96/05668 A1 are incorporated by reference.

[0022] The spreading codes can be generated for example by a code tree. This technique is known from Adachi, "Tree-structured generation of orthogonal spreading codes with different lengths for forward link of DS-CDMA mobile radio", Electronics Letters, January 1997, Vol.33, No.1, page 27, 28, which is incorporated herewith by reference.

[0023] Orthogonal spreading codes with different lengths can be generated by a tree-structure for orthogonal multiplexing of forward-link code-channels of different data rates in direct sequence code division multiple access DS-CDMA mobile radio. Thereby codes of the same layer of the tree constitute a set of Walsh functions and are orthogonal. Furthermore, any two codes of different layers of the tree structure are also orthogonal except for the case that one of the two codes is a mother code of the other.

[0024] As it has already been set forth in the introductory portion, when only one scrambling code (or long code) is used per link, there are restrictions of the combinations of codes which can be used for the orthogonal codes (see Adachi et al.) These restrictions may prevent a user from being allocated to a certain channel. These restrictions are especially important for high data rate users. Furthermore the highest data rate is restricted to the shortest orthogonal code.

[0025] As according to the technique set forth

above, two or more scrambling codes are assigned to one link (one user), the following advantages are achieved:

- the highest data rate is increased since the data rate can be split over at least two scrambling codes. Therefore a higher data rate service on one link (uplink or downlink) can be provided by using a plurality of scrambling codes within one link. In this way the same channelisation codes (spreading codes) can be reused and a higher data rate can be supported because the highest data rate is restricted by the set of channelisation codes (spreading codes) with the shortest link.

[0026] By only using two scrambling codes ($M=2$) per link (user), the total number of available channelisation codes (spreading codes) can be doubled and the maximum data rate can also be doubled.

[0027] Figure 4 shows a symbolized cell distribution of a wireless transmission system. One cell C_1 is surrounded by six other hexagonal cells C_2, \dots, C_7 . A total number of, for example, 512 different scrambling codes can be used. To avoid interference between adjacent cells, the total number of 512 scrambling codes can for example be divided by 7 and each cell C_1, \dots, C_7 can be allocated a subset of said scrambling codes. Different users within one cell can use different scrambling codes allocated to the respective cell.

[0028] As it has already been set forth above, one scrambling code can be used in conjunction with a set of channelisation codes (spreading codes) depending upon the required data rate and services required. Adjacent base stations can use different scrambling codes and every base station uses a set of scrambling codes to maintain different links in each cell.

[0029] To increase the flexibility of code assignment and increase the usage of the codes and the code tree, it is proposed to use as an option more than one scrambling code per link.

[0030] Figure 5 shows an application of the technique set forth above. According to Figure 5 the technique is used to provide an increased data rate, for example, for a WCDMA system. To increase the data rate normally in WCDMA one or both of the following approaches are required:

- reduction of processing gain, and
- increase of chip rate (enhanced bandwidth)

[0031] By utilizing the scheme as shown in Figure 5 the data rate can be increased by combining more than one scrambling code. The example shows the data rate at 4 Mbit/s, but obviously higher rates can be achieved by using more than one scrambling code.

[0032] Now a receiver technology according to the present invention for a transmission system utilizing CDMA modulation, a plurality of spreading codes per

link and only one scrambling code per link will be explained with reference to Fig. 6. The receiver technology implements the descrambling and despreading shown in figure 1 and designated by the reference sign 16.

[0033] The receiver technology as shown with reference to Fig. 6 is designed to cope with transmission systems utilizing more than one scrambling code per link to alleviate the problem of channelisation code restriction and also to provide a higher data rate service on one link (uplink or downlink). In this way the same channelisation code can be reused and a higher data rate can be supported because the highest data rate is restricted by the set of channelisation codes (spreading codes) with the shortest length. When reusing one and the same channelisation code for spreading the two different data streams transmitted in one link and scrambling these two data streams by two different scrambling codes, the complexity of the receiver can be reduced as shown with reference to Fig. 6 as complex RAKE receivers can be suppressed as according to the present invention only one RAKE receiver 16 is necessary.

[0034] With reference to figure 7 the internal structure of a modified RAKE receiver according to the present invention will be explained.

[0035] As it has already been explained, the RAKE receiver 16 is supplied (additionally to the information bits) both with delay information $\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_n$ corresponding to the position of the correlation peaks detected by the correlator 16' and tap coefficients (estimation values) from the channel estimator 15 input to a multiplication circuits 51 of the RAKE receiver 16.

[0036] As shown in Fig. 7 the output signals of the correlator 16' are supplied with corresponding delays $\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_n$ provided by a delay line 42, 43 to a plurality of so called RAKE taps of the RAKE receiver 16. (In figure 8 two RAKE taps are depicted for a schematic representation of the RAKE receiver. Generally the RAKE receiver comprises n RAKE taps and (n-1) delay units, n being an integer larger than 1). The delays $\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_n$ correspond to the estimated delays of the multipath channel as they are detected by the correlator 16'.

[0037] In figure 7 two RAKE taps are shown schematically. Generally the receiver comprises n RAKE taps, n being an integer larger than 1. Each of the RAKE taps comprises despreading units 44, 45 using common channelisation codes. The output of the despreading units 44, 45 is respectively divided into a plurality of parallel streams wherein the number of streams corresponds to the number of different scrambling codes used per link. Each of the parallel streams is passed to a corresponding descrambling unit 46, 47, 48, 49 multiplying the output of the despreading units 44, 45 by the respective scrambling code used in the stream. In each RAKE tap comprising one despreading unit 44, 45 a set of k descrambling units 46, 47, 48, 49 is provided, the descrambling units belonging to the same set being respectively supplied with the output of the same

despreading unit. k thereby is an integer larger than 1. Each set of k descrambling units 46, 47, 48, 49 uses the same k descrambling codes used in the link. Therefore in each RAKE tap the output of the respective despreading unit is descrambled with the same set of k different descrambling codes.

[0038] The output of the descrambling units 46, 47, 48, 49 is then respectively passed to an adding circuit 50 summing up all chips of a symbol.

[0039] The respective outputs of the adding circuits 50 is then passed to multiplying circuits 51 where they are multiplied with the complex conjugate of the estimated channel coefficients supplied from the channel estimator 15. Respectively n (number of RAKE taps) outputs of the multiplying circuits 51 are then combined in one RAKE combiner 52 as shown in figure 52, 53. The RAKE combiner 52, 53 output the signals output₁, ..., output_k.

[0040] Respectively one RAKE combiner 52, 53 is provided with the output of n, in the shown example two, multiplying circuits belonging to different RAKE taps (different despreading units) but at the same time belonging to streams with descrambling units using the same descrambling code. Therefore, in the example shown in figure 7, k RAKE combiner 52, 53 are provided corresponding to the number of streams of one RAKE tap and hence to the number k of different scrambling codes used per link. For example, the RAKE combiner 52 combines n outputs of the parallel streams having been descrambled in the descrambling units with the same scrambling code C_{SCRAMB1}. The RAKE combiner 53 combines n outputs having been descrambled in the descrambling units with the same scrambling code C_{SCRAMBk}.

[0041] With other words, on the receiver side, see figure 7, the incoming data is passed to a delay line (two delay units 42, 43 are depicted in figure 8) which forms part of a modified RAKE receiver. From specific delays of the delay line, the signal is despread using the common channelisation codes and then further split into a number of streams corresponding to the number of scrambling codes used in the link. Each stream is then multiplied by the respective scrambling code used in the stream and the resulting signal is passed to the complex conjugate of the estimated channel coefficient supplied from the channel estimator 15 and then passed to a RAKE combiner.

[0042] Therefore the present invention provides for the following advantages:

- lower complexity of the receiver structure, and
- more efficient usage of the available RAKE receivers.

55 Claims

1. Receiver for detecting information symbols transmitted according to an CDMA technique,

according to which CDMA technique the information symbols are respectively spread with a common spreading code and scrambled with different scrambling codes, on the transmission side,

the receiver comprising:

- at least one despreading unit (44, 45) for despreading an input data bitstream respectively with said common spreading code, and
- a set of k descrambling units (46, 47, 48, 49) per despreading unit (44, 45), k being an integer larger than 1, respectively k descrambling units (46, 47, 48, 49) being supplied with the output signal of one despreading unit (44, 45).

2. Receiver according to claim 1, characterized in that

a plurality of despreading units (44, 45) is provided and input data are supplied to the despreading units (44, 45) by means of a delay line (42, 43).

3. Receiver according to anyone of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that

a channel estimator (15) is provided generating channel estimation values.

4. Receiver according to claim 3, characterized in that

a correlator (16') is provided supplying correlation based data both to the input of the receiver (16) and of the channel estimator (15).

5. Receiver according to anyone of claims 3 or 4, characterized in that

it comprises multiplying circuits for multiplying data based on the output of a descrambling unit (46, 47, 48, 49) with the channel estimation values supplied from the channel estimator (15).

6. Receiver according to claim 5, characterized in that

a plurality of RAKE combiner (52, 53) is provided being respectively supplied with the output of n multiplying circuits (51) associated with different despreading units (44, 45) but with descrambling units (46, 47, 48, 49) using the same descrambling code, wherein n is the number of RAKE taps and larger than 1.

7. Receiver according to claim 6, characterized in that

a number k of RAKE combiner is provided, k being the number of different scrambling codes used per link and being larger than 1.

8. Mobile communications device, characterized in that

it comprises a receiver according to anyone of the preceding claims.

9. Mobile communications device, characterized in that

it is a mobile station for a CDMA transmission system.

10. Method for detecting information symbols transmitted according to an CDMA technique,

according to which CDMA technique the information symbols are respectively spread with a common spreading code and scrambled with different scrambling codes, on the transmission side, the method comprising the following steps:

- despreading (44, 45) an input data bitstream respectively with said common spreading code, and
- a set of k descrambling step (46, 47, 48, 49) per despreading step (44, 45), k being an integer larger than 1, respectively k descrambling steps (46, 47, 48, 49) being supplied with the output of one despreading step (44, 45).

11. Method according to claim 10, characterized in that

a plurality of despreading steps (44, 45) is provided and input data are supplied to the despreading steps (44, 45) after having been passed through a delay line (42, 43).

12. Method according to anyone of claims 10 or 11, characterized in that

a channel estimation values are generated.

13. Method according to claim 12, characterized by

a correlation step (16') for supplying correlation based data both to the receiving step (16) and to the channel estimation value generation step

(15).

14. Method according to anyone of claims 12 or 13,
characterized by

5

the step of multiplying data based on the output
of a descrambling unit (46, 47, 48, 49) with the
channel estimation values supplied from the
channel estimation value generation step (15).

10

15. Method according to claim 14,
characterized by

a plurality of RAKE combining steps (52, 53)
respectively supplied with the output of n multi-
plying steps (51) associated with different
despreading steps (44, 45) but with descram-
bling steps (46, 47, 48, 49) using the same
descrambling code, wherein n is the number of
RAKE taps and larger than 1.

15

20

16. Method according to claim 15,
characterized in that

a number k of RAKE combining steps is pro-
vided, k being the number of different scram-
bling codes used per link and being larger than
1.

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

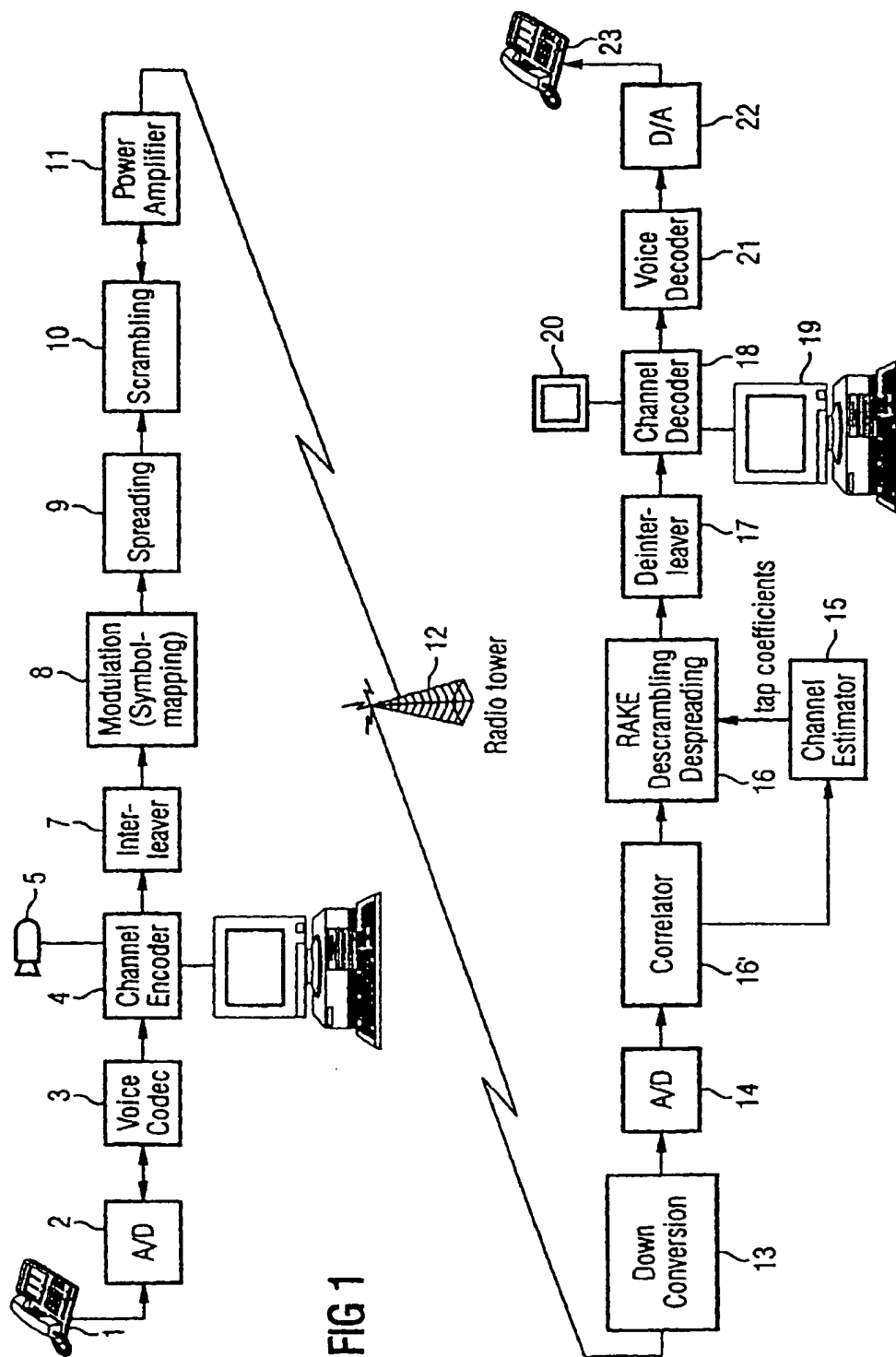
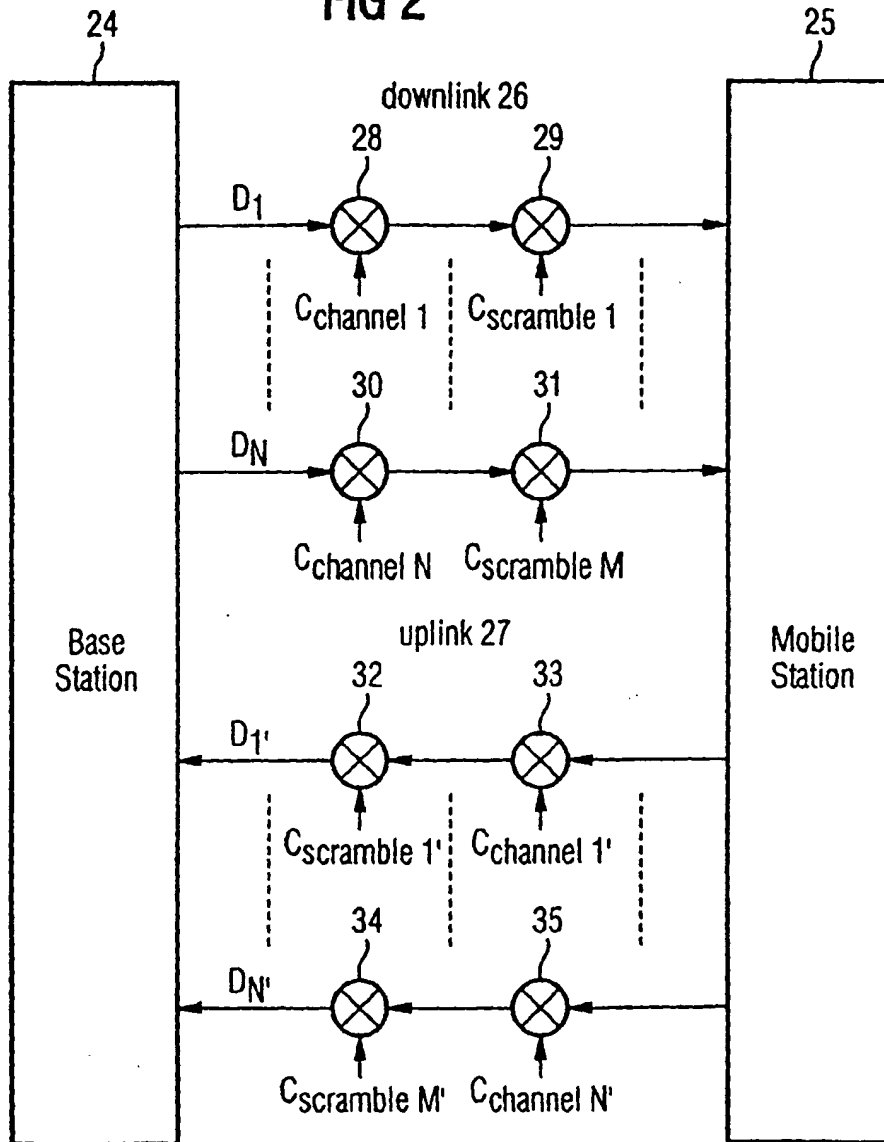


FIG 2



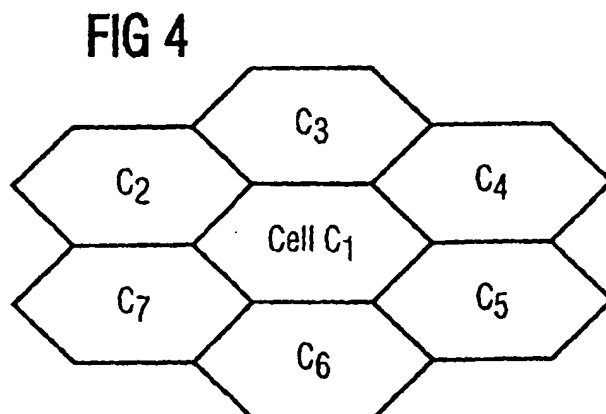
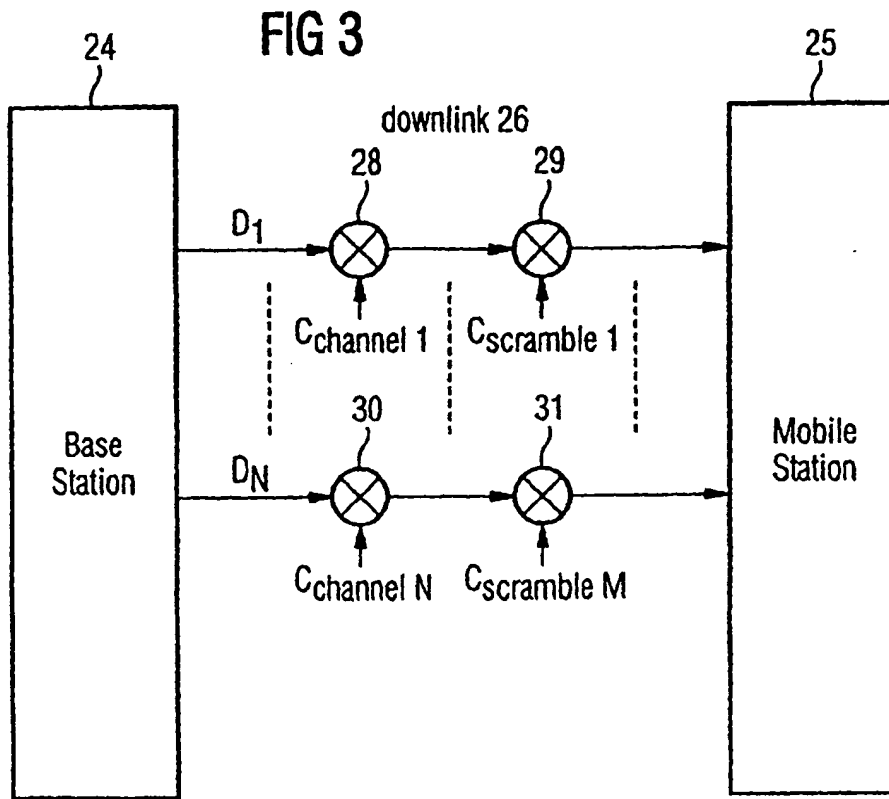


FIG 5

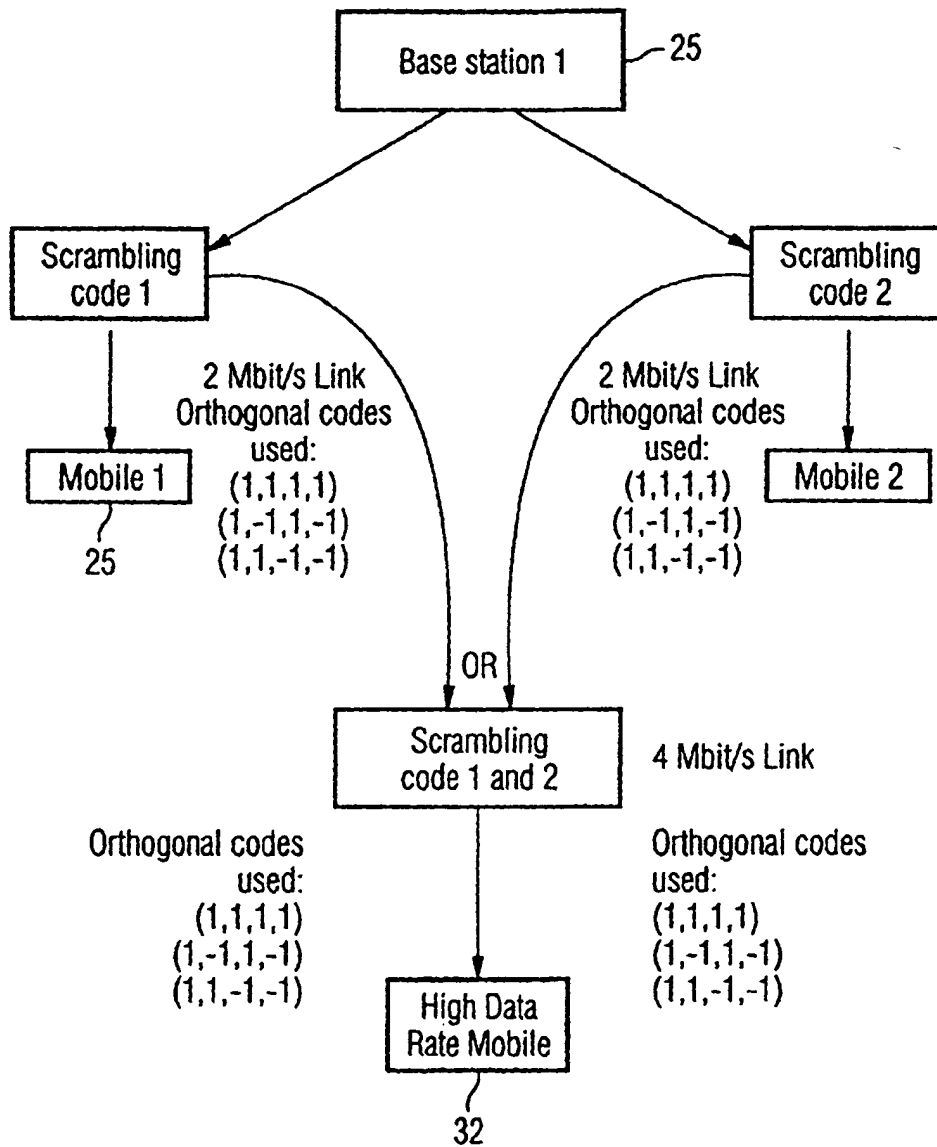


FIG 6

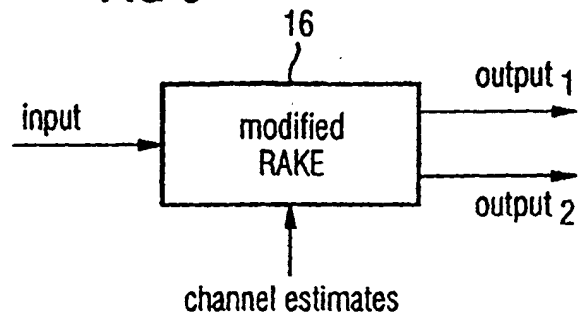
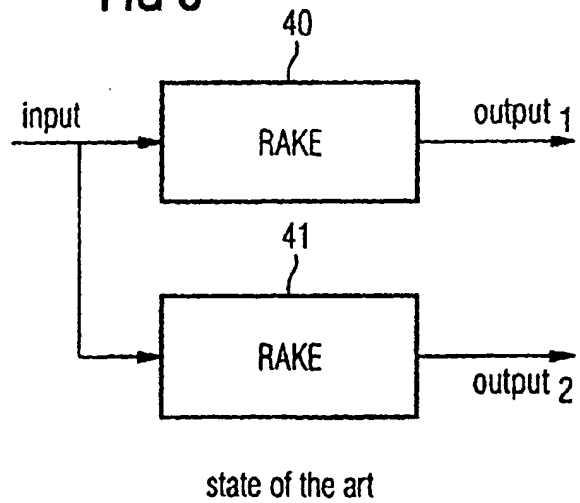
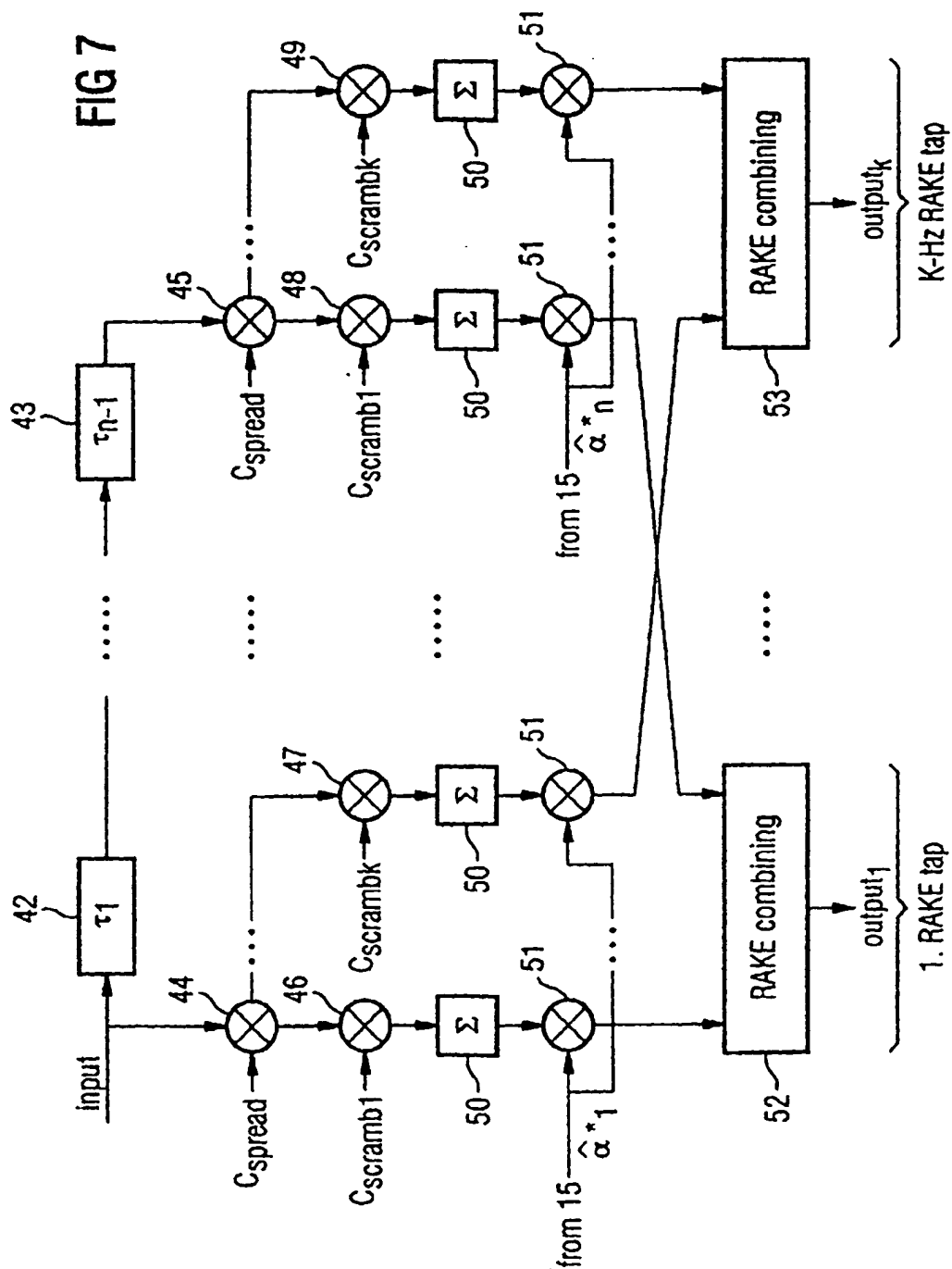


FIG 8







European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 12 0115

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (INCL.6)
X	EP 0 717 520 A (NIPPON ELECTRIC CO) 19 June 1996 * page 2, column 1, line 7 - line 23 * * page 2, column 2, line 16 - line 58; figures 2A, 2B *	1, 9, 10	H04B1/707 H04J13/04
D, A	ADACHI F ET AL: "Tree-structured generation of orthogonal spreading codes with different lengths for forward link of DS-SSMA mobile radio" ELECTRONICS LETTERS, 2 JAN. 1997, IEE, UK, vol. 33, no. 1, pages 27-28, XP000692467 ISSN 0013-5194 * page 27, left-hand column, line 29 - right-hand column, line 23; figure 1 *		
A	US 5 515 396 A (KOTZIN MICHAEL D) 7 May 1996 * column 4, line 29 - column 6, line 28; figures 1-3 *		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (INCL.6)
			H04B H04J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24 March 1999	Examiner Bossen, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document</p> <p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EP0 FORM 1608 (3.9.98) (PUB.01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 12 0115

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

24-03-1999

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0717520 A	19-06-1996	JP 2655108 B	17-09-1997
		JP 8163087 A	21-06-1996
		US 5734647 A	31-03-1998
US 5515396 A	07-05-1996	CA 2158356 A	31-08-1995
		EP 0705500 A	10-04-1996
		FI 955063 A	24-10-1995
		JP 8509591 T	08-10-1996
		WO 9523459 A	31-08-1995

EPO FORM P4488

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82